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STATED MEETING, APRIL 6.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Twenty-eight Geological Specimens and Organic Remains from Little Rock, Arkansas.—From Dr. Engelman, of St. Louis.

A fine specimen of Red Pipe Stone from Coteau de Prairie, Sioux county.—From J. N. Nicollet, Esq.

Ten specimens of Minerals from Leipersville, Delaware county, Pennsylvania.—From Mr. L. W. Williams.

Masonite, (new mineral) from Natic Valley, Rhode Island. New Red Sandstone, with Gypsum, Tobique river, New Brunswick. Chlorophyllite, (new mineral) Unity, New Hampshire. Copper Pyrites and Tremolite, from copper mine, at Warner, New Hampshire. Tertiary fossil shells, from Westbrook, Maine, viz.: *Astarte castanea*, *Saxicava distorta*, *Nuclea Portlandica*, *Nuclea Jacksonii*, (Gould): and a Fossil tooth from tertiary clay of Gardiner, Maine.—Presented by Dr. Chas. T. Jackson.

A specimen of the Mason Spider, with its nests; from the south of France.—Presented by Jas. Saul, Esq. of New Orleans.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

A Second Memoir on the Laws of Storms in India. By Henry Piddington, Calcutta, 1840.—From the Author.

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. VIII. Part II. (New Series.)—From the Society.

Voyage de F. Hornemann dans l'Afrique Septentrionale, 8vo. Paris, 1803.—From the late Wm. Maclure, Esq.

Ornithologie du Gard, et des Pays Circonvoisins, par J. Crespon. 8vo. Nismes, 1840.—From James Saul, Esq.

A Discourse on the Natural History of the Plants called Graminæa, by W. Darlington, M. D.—From the Author.

Third Annual Report of the Geology of Maine, 1837, by Dr. Chas. T. Jackson.—From the Author.

Second Annual Report of the Geology of the Public Lands belonging to Maine and Massachusetts, by Dr. Chas. T. Jackson.—From the Author.

Report on the Agricultural and Geological Survey of the State of Rhode Island, by Dr. Chas. T. Jackson, 1839.—From the Author.

Systema Regni Animalis, by John Christopher Exleben; et *Prodromus Mamallium et Avium*.—Purchased by order of the Academy.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Henry Piddington, Esq., dated Calcutta, July 26th, 1840, in relation to the works presented by him this evening: also a letter from Mr. L. W. Williams of Leipersville, Delaware county, Pennsylvania, in regard to the minerals presented by him this evening, and a proposed exchange of specimens.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.—Professor Johnson made some remarks in relation to the apparent tendency of Anthracite coal to assume crystalline forms; and exhibited a specimen of the rhombic form.

Professor H. D. Rogers, observed, that in his explorations of the coal formations of Pennsylvania, he found he could trace this tendency to three mechanical causes, viz; 1st. To planes of deposition; 2dly. To transverse planes or joints; 3dly. To faults.

By special permission, Prof. Johnson in the Chair,

Dr. S. G. Morton made some observations on a mode of ascertaining the internal capacity of the human cranium, by means of the tin tube and graduated rod, as described by him in *Crania Americana*, page 283.

The material hitherto used by Dr. Morton for the purpose of filling the crania, was white pepper seed, which was selected on account of its spherical form, and general uniformity in the size of the grains; in these respects, however, there is sufficient diversity to occasion considerable variation in the results of several successive measurements of the same head, especially when taken

by different persons. This variation was sometimes not less than three or four cubic inches; making it desirable to use some other bodies in place of the pepper seeds. Dr. Morton then tried leaden shot of the size called BB., measuring $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch in diameter; which being perfectly smooth and spherical, of uniform size, and therefore not liable, like the seeds to variations from packing, were found to answer the purpose in every particular. In using the shot, it is necessary to fill the skull completely, by shaking it, and by pressing the shot down with the finger and the end of the funnel introduced into the foramen magnum, until all the cavities and sinuosities are filled. When this is accomplished, the shot being transferred to the tube, will give the capacity of the cranium in cubic inches, and with so much accuracy, that in six successive measurements of the same skull, the results did not vary more than half a cubic inch; a degree of accuracy which has not been attained by any former method. An experiment with the apparatus was then made, in the presence of the members, which corroborated the statements already made. Dr. Morton informed the Society, that he was now engaged in ascertaining by these means, the capacity of the cranium, as indicative of the size of the brain, in the different races of men; and will report the results for publication in the proceedings of the Academy.

STATED MEETING, APRIL 13.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

A specimen of Mountain Leather, from New Brunswick, N. Jersey.—From Dr. L. C. Beck.

Five specimens of *Belemnites Americanus*; three of *Terebratula Sayi*; seven fossil bones; the tooth of a Crocodile; two Shark's vertebræ, from the green sand formation of New Egypt, in N. Jersey.—From the Rev. James McFarland.

Two splendid specimens of the *Phasianus Argus*, (male and female,) from India.—From Dr. George C. Leib.

A branch of the *Auracaria Chilensis*, from Chili.—From Mr. J. Frampton Watson.